

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117067
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00
ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ACDA-07 OES-07 /057 R

DRAFTED BY L/PM:JAROHWER:PAT

APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN

L - H. HANSELL

ARA - W. LUERS, ACTING

NSC - B PASTOR

DOD/ISA - W. SLOCOMBE

ACDA - C. VAN DOREN

ARA/CAR - J. THYDEN

PM/DCA - R. TOYE

S/S:SESTEINER

-----210109Z 114886 /20

O 202304Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO A/USACC FORT BUCHANAN IMMEDIATE

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PASS SECRETARY OF STATE REINALDO PANIAGUA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XMPQ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESERVATION TO U.S. ADHERENCE TO
PROTOCOL I TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE OF PUERTO RICO FROM ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE TERENCE TODMAN

1. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPINION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ON A
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MATTER OF IMPORTANCE WHICH MUST BE DECIDED IN THE NEXT FEW
DAYS.

2. AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN HIS PAN AMERICAN
DAY SPEECH THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD SIGN PROTOCOL I TO
THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND HE WOULD SEEK APPROVAL OF
THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO RATIFY IT. IN HIS TELEPHONE

CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR ROMERO, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE EXPLAINED THAT THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER PROTOCOL I WOULD APPLY IN PUERTO RICO. THESE OBLIGATIONS NOTABLY INCLUDE UNDERTAKINGS TO KEEP THE TERRITORY OF PUERTO RICO FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TO SUBJECT ALL PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN PUERTO RICO TO THAT AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS.

3. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS NOW CONSIDERING WHAT INTERPRETIVE STATEMENTS THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ATTACH TO ITS RATIFICATION TO MAKE CLEAR THE CHARACTER OF THE OBLIGATIONS IT WILL ASSUME. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE DELIBERATING WHETHER PUERTO RICO SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE COVERED BY THE PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT IT BECOMES A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES. OUR LAWYERS BELIEVE THAT UNLESS THE UNITED STATES RESERVES THIS POINT WHEN IT RATIFIES THE PROTOCOL, THE OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO KEEP PUERTO RICO FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD NOT BE REMOVED IF PUERTO RICO BECAME A STATE. (IF PUERTO RICO BECAME INDEPENDENT, THE PROTOCOL WOULD AUTOMATICALLY CEASE TO APPLY TO IT, AND IT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO ADHERE TO THE BASIC TREATY.)

4. WE BELIEVE A PROVISION OF THIS KIND WOULD BE LEGALLY POSSIBLE, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IN LATIN AMERICA, AND IT COULD BE USED BY STATES THAT HAVE NOT ADHERED TO THE TREATY OF TLAZELOLCO AS A PRETEXT FOR CONTINUING TO AVOID ADHERENCE.

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5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE ADVICE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON WHETHER OR NOT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PUERTO RICAN INTERESTS THAT THE UNITED STATES MAKE AN INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT ON THIS QUESTION, SINCE THE PRESIDENT WOULD INTEND TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL ON MAY 26.

6. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THAT IN NO WAY WILL OUR DECISION ON SUCH A RESERVATION INFLUENCE FUTURE DECISIONS BY THIS ADMINISTRATION ABOUT PUERTO RICO'S POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, TREATY RATIFICATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TREATY OF TLATELOLCO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE117067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JAROHWER:PAT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770181-0035
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770533/aaaabcd.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2bfac58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2426819
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE RESERVATION TO U.S. ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL I TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO FOR SECRETARY OF STATE OF PUERTO RICO FROM ASSISTA
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, US, RQ, XM
To: A/USACC FORT BUCHANAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2bfac58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009